



Ballot Rubric for Impromptu

[See Sample Ballot](#)

Content: *Consider topic, ideas, thesis*

Contact Tournament Administration (Compliance staff) for concerns regarding NCFCA Mission Alignment rules.

1 - Beginning: States the topic and minimally adheres to it. Inadequate content to defend the thesis.

2 - Developing: States the topic and somewhat adheres to it. Some content to defend the thesis.

3 - Capable: Adheres to the stated topic with a logical or creative defense. Adequate content to support the thesis from personal stories, examples, and/or other material from credible sources.

4 - Proficient: Closely adheres to the stated topic with a well-reasoned defense of the thesis. Robust content to support the thesis from personal stories, examples, and/or other material from credible sources.

5 - Excellent: Develops the stated topic through a compelling or convincing thesis. Outstanding variety and depth of content, including personal stories, examples, and/or other material from credible sources.

Organization & Citations: *Consider clarity through organization and citations*

Contact Tournament Administration (Compliance staff) for concerns regarding Academic Integrity rules.

1 - Beginning: Confusing or little structure. Missing or unclear introduction and/or conclusion. Missing or unclear verbal citations when needed.

2 - Developing: Some structure with transitions. Unbalanced introduction and/or conclusion. Some missing verbal citations when needed.

3 - Capable: Clear structure with transitions for introduction, conclusion, and points. Somewhat consistent use of clear verbal citations when needed.

4 - Proficient: Engaging introduction and conclusion with balanced points and smooth transitions. Consistently clear citations when needed.

5 - Excellent: Captivating introduction, balanced points, and strong conclusion. Skillful, clear citations when needed.

Vocal Delivery: *Consider articulation, pronunciation, volume, rate, pitch, style, tone*

1 - Beginning: Mumbling, halting, or lack of vocal energy. Mispronunciations. Minimum vocal variation or inappropriate volume, rate, pitch or tone.

2 - Developing: Some mumbling, mispronunciation, or verbal pauses. Inconsistent effectiveness of volume, rate, and/or articulation that needs continued practice.

3 - Capable: Generally accurate articulation and pronunciation. Sincere style with vocal variation appropriate for the content. Minimal distractions.

4 - Proficient: Overall command of energy, volume, rate, and articulation that enhances the content. Winsome, conversational style, without distractions.

5 - Excellent: Powerful, memorable, and/or highly impactful vocal style. Expert vocal variation and control that magnifies the message.



Physical Delivery: *Consider poise, professionalism, movement, gestures, eye contact, facial expression*

- 1 - Beginning: Nervous or stiff manner. Distracting, habitual movements (e.g. tapping, pacing, swaying). Minimum eye contact.
- 2 - Developing: Inconsistent physical control or poise. Moments of distracting movements with the face, hands, body, or use of space.
- 3 - Capable: Generally poised, effective use of body and space. Good posture and energy. Generally appropriate gestures, eye contact, and facial expressions.
- 4 - Proficient: Confident, professional control of posture, gestures, eye contact, and facial expressions to engage the audience.
- 5 - Excellent: Compelling, masterful use of space, movement, gestures, and expression that enthrall the audience.

Impact: *Consider mind, emotion, relevance, connection, speaker*

- 1 - Beginning: Speaker attempts to build audience connection or credibility through relevance of the topic, well-reasoned analysis, or sincere conviction.
- 2 - Developing: Speaker builds some audience connection and credibility through relevance of the topic, well-reasoned analysis, or sincere conviction.
- 3 - Capable: Speaker builds consistent audience connection and credibility through relevance of the topic, well-reasoned analysis, or sincere conviction.
- 4 - Proficient: Speaker establishes meaningful audience connection and credibility through relevance of the topic, well-reasoned analysis, or sincere conviction.
- 5 - Excellent: Speaker establishes profound audience connection and credibility through relevance of the topic, well-reasoned analysis, or sincere conviction.

Ballot Sample for Impromptu

Please use the [rubric](#) for descriptions of each speaker rank. (View [ballot demonstration](#) ).

Ballot - Impromptu, Room

Competitor:

Judge:

Topic

Speech Length

:

Timer Issue

Y / N

Content

1 2 3 4 5

Organization & Citations

1 2 3 4 5

Vocal Delivery

1 2 3 4 5

Physical Delivery

1 2 3 4 5

Impact

1 2 3 4 5

Comments

Rank

Total Score



Speech Ballot Sample

Judges will see all speech competitors' ballots simultaneously.

Ballot - Digital Presentation, Room # M123Verify & Submit

Competitor Topic Speech Length Timer Issue Scripts or Notes used Category 1 Category 2 Category 3 Category 4 Category 5 Comments Rank Total Score	Competitor Topic Speech Length Timer Issue Scripts or Notes used Category 1 Category 2 Category 3 Category 4 Category 5 Comments Rank Total Score	Competitor Topic Speech Length Timer Issue Scripts or Notes used Category 1 Category 2 Category 3 Category 4 Category 5 Comments Rank Total Score	Competitor Topic Speech Length Timer Issue Scripts or Notes used Category 1 Category 2 Category 3 Category 4 Category 5 Comments Rank Total Score
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